

## Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 AID-05 PC-01 IO-11 /087 W

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R 191311Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4136

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 2566

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, UR

SUBJ: INDO-SOVIET RELATIONS

REF: MOSCOW 1135

1. ACTING POLITICAL COUNSELOR CALLED ON MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS JOINT SECRETARY N.P. JAIN (EASTERN EUROPE) FEB 19 TO REVIEW SOVIET/INDIAN RELATIONS. JAIN CHARACTERIZED THE MOSCOW/DELHI TIES AS BOTH NORMAL AND GOOD. ALTHOUGH OBVIOUSLY EMBARRASSED IN ATTEMPTING TO EXPLAIN THE ALMOST NINE MONTH GAP IN NAMING A NEW INDIAN AMBASSADOR TO MOSCOW, JAIN INSISTED NO SPECIAL IMPORTANCE BE ATTRIBUTED TO THAT PROBLEM. WHEN THE PRIME MINISTER HAS HER DOMESTIC HOUSE IN ORDER, HE SAID, SHE WILL NAME A NEW INDIAN AMBASSADOR WHO WILL NOT NECESSARILY BE A FORMER CABINET MINISTER. JAIN CLAIMED THAT THE ABSENCE OF AN INDIAN CHIEF OF MISSION HAD NOT INHIBITED ANY OF THE DISCUSSIONS, EXCHANGES OR OTHER SOVIET/INDIAN PROGRAMS, ALL OF WHICH CONTINUE IN NORMAL FASHION.

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2. IN A CONVERSATION WITH AN AMEMBASSOR SAME DAY, THE SOVIET EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELOR ALSO PROFESSED TO BE UNCONCERNED THAT THE GOI HAS NOT YET SLEECTED AN AMBASSADOR TO MOSCOW. HIS EXPLANATION FOR THE DELAY WAS THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD NOT YET IDENTIFIED A POLITICIAN WITH BOTH THE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH HERSELF AND A WILLINGNESS TO REMOVE HIMSELF FOR A TIME FROM THE CENTER OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN DELHI.

THE SOVIET OFFICIAL MENTIONED BUT THEN DISMISSED THE POSSIBILITY THE INDIAN WERE TRYING TO RECIPRICATE THE EIGHT-MONTH GAP BETWEEN FORMER SOVIET AMBASSADOR PEGOV'S DEPARTURE AND THE ARRIVAL OF THE CURRENT AMBASSADOR MALTSEV. HE THOUGHT IT POSSIBLE HOWEVER MRS GANDHI WOULD QUIETLY INCLUDE HER AMBASSADORIAL CANDIDATE IN HER ENTOURAGE WHEN SHE VISITED MOSCOW AND WOULD INTRODUCE HIM PERSONALLY TO THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP. BREZHNEV, HE SAID, HAD DONE THIS WITH MALTSEV IN NOVEMBER 1973 AND IT PROVED A FAR MORE EFFECTIVE INTRODUCTION THAN IF MALTSEV HAD ARRIVED EARLIER ON HIS OWN.

3. THE SOVIET EMBOFF THOUGHT MRS GANDHI WOULD BE PAYING HER VISIT TO THE USSR IN LATE SPRING OR SUMMER. BUT IT DEPENDED ENTIRELY ON HER. MEA OFFICER JAIN TOLD THE ACTING POLCONS THAT MRS GANDHI WOULD DEFINITELY BE PICKING UP HER LONGSTANDING INVITATION AND GO TO MOSCOW THIS YEAR AS SOON AS SHE DECIDED ON A DATE.

4. NEITHER THE SOVIET POLITICAL COUNSELOR NOR THE MEA OFFICIAL WERE WILLING TO ATTACH POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE TO THE CURRENT USSR VISIT OF INDIAN INFORMATION MINISTER SHUKLA. ALTHOUGH ACKNOWLEDGING THAT SHUKLA'S CLOSE RELATIONSHIP TO MRS GANDHI HAD BEEN MADE PLAIN SINCE THE EMERGENCY (AND HIS EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT OF THE CENSORSHIP REGIME HERE), THE SOVIET THOUGHT HIS PURPOSE MAINLY WAS TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION BETWEEN INDIAN TELEVISION AS WELL AS THE NEW UNIFIED NEWS AGENCY SAMARCHAR AND SOVIET INFORMATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. THE INDIAN WANTED SOVIET ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING THEIR TELEVISION NETWORK AND WERE ALSO INTERESTED IN SOME EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, ACCORDING

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TO THE SOVIET. HE ADDED THAT THE INDIANS PRESSED FOR SHUKLA'S VISIT AT THIS TIME EVEN THOUGH HIS STAY ON THE EVE OF THE CPSU CONGRESS WAS NOT ESPECIALLY CONVENIENT.  
SAXBE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, AMBASSADORS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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